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ANALYSIS
DIVISION

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PIR

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE REPORT

STATUS OF NORTH VIETNAMESE RAILROADS

Declass Review by NIMA/DOD

Report No. 1
CIA/PIR 75022

DATE Aug. 1966
1

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and declassification

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PREFACE

This report summarizes significant items of photo intelligence relating to the North Vietnamese railroad system which have been developed from available photography during the period indicated on the cover.

The railroad system has been broken down into 5 major lines: the Hanoi/Lao Cai Line, the Hanoi/Dong Dang Line, the Hanoi/Haiphong Line, the Hanoi/Dong Hoi Line, and the Thai Nguyen Line, (Figure I). Annotated maps and photos are used to show the status of each line.

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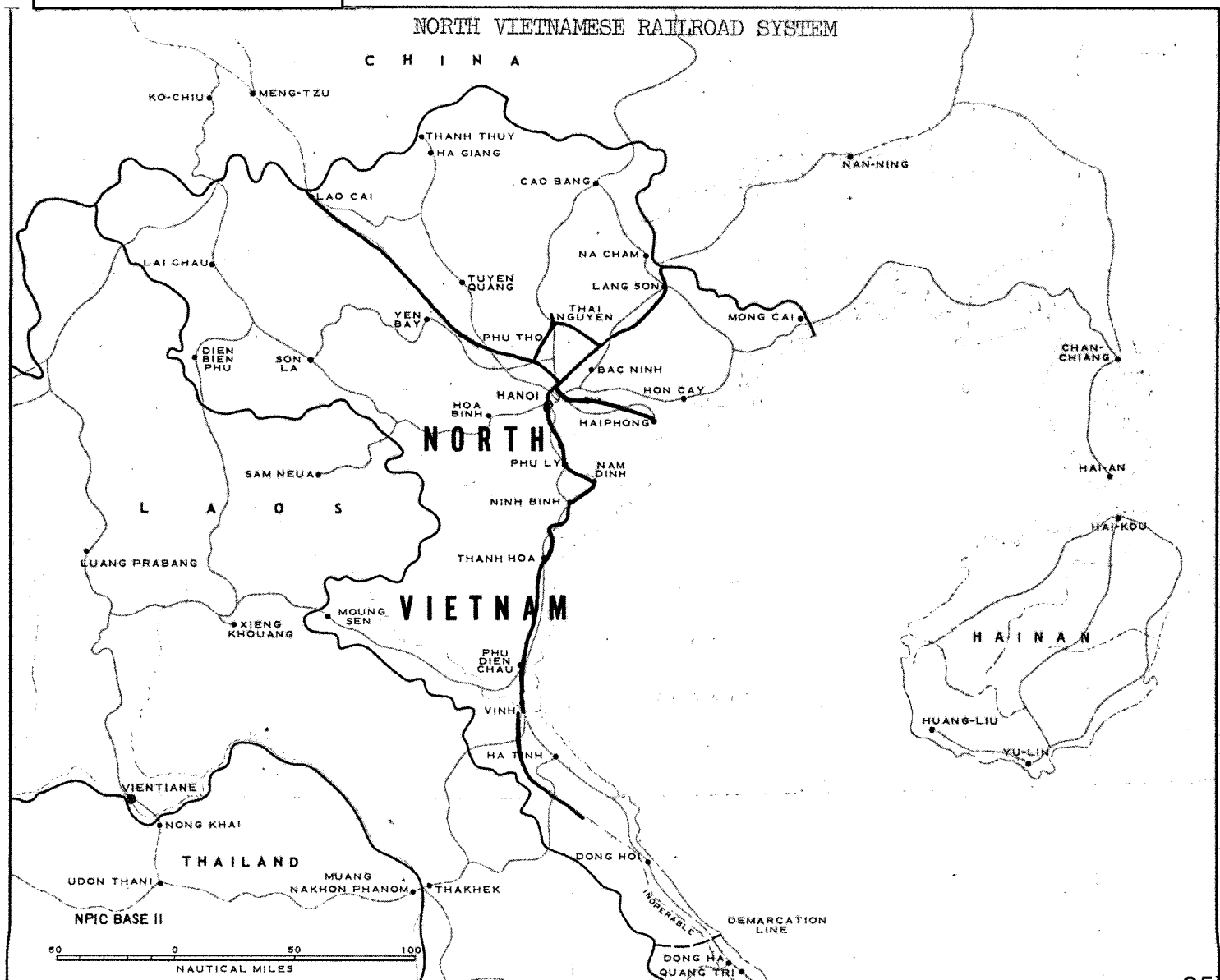
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FIGURE 1
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SUMMARY

The Hanoi/Lao Cai Line is interdicted at Viet Tri; all other bridges on this rail line appear serviceable. The Hanoi/Dong Dang Line appears serviceable on observed segments. The Hanoi/Haiphong Line was interdicted at date of latest photography at Hai Duong.

The Hanoi/Dong Hoi Line is interdicted in several places south of Vinh; however, the North Vietnamese continue to use segments of the line.

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KEY

All maps within this report have been keyed in the following manner:

- ☆ Main bridge bombed - now serviceable.
- ★ By-pass bridge or bridges serviceable.
- Main bridge unserviceable.
- All bridge crossing facilities unserviceable.
- ▲ By-pass bridge under construction.
- 8— Original bridge has not been damaged or destroyed based on available photography.
- 3➤ Item of interest. Turn to the corresponding item number within the section for further information.

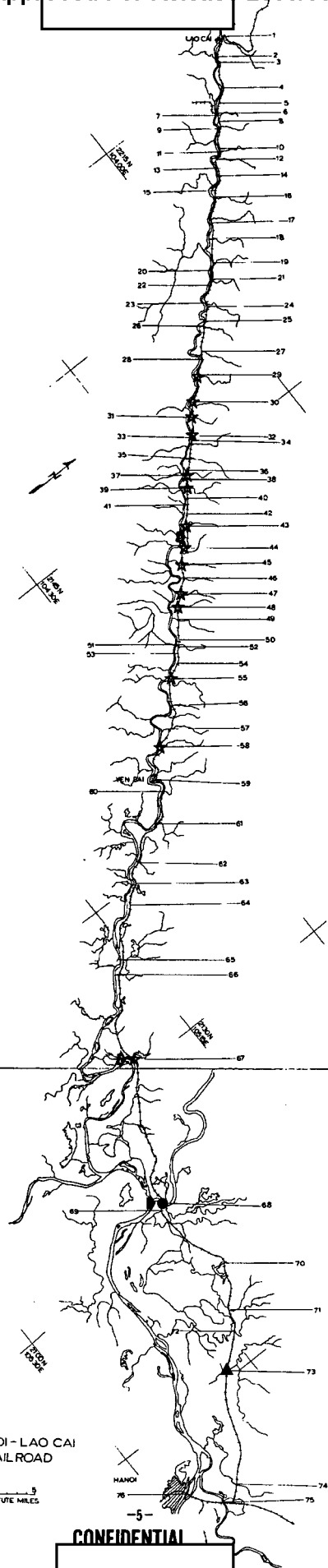
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ITEM OF INTEREST NO. 1. Hanoi/Lao Cai Line

NAME: Viet Tri RR and Highway Bridge

COORDINATES: 21 17N - 105 26E WJ 466550

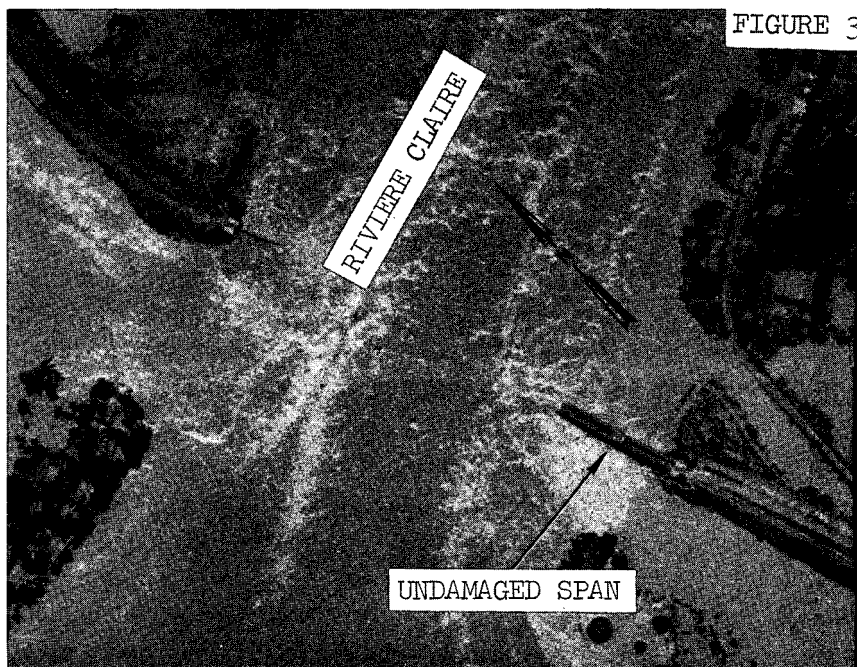
PHOTO REFERENCES:

MAP REFERENCES: AMS L509, NF 48-11

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The Viet Tri Rail and Highway Bridge is located 0.7 nm east of Viet Tri on the Hanoi/Lao Cai Line and Route 18. It is approximately 1,000' x [] and consists of four 250' through-truss spans. Three spans and two piers have been destroyed. This is the only interdiction on the Hanoi/Lao Cai Line. No attempt has yet been made to by-pass this bridge.

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ITEM OF INTEREST NO. 2. Hanoi/Lao Cai Rail Line

NAME: Phu Tho Rail Yard

BE:

COORDINATES: 21 24N - 105 13E WJ 241664

PHOTO REFERENCES:

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MAP REFERENCES: AMS L509, NF 48-11

Photography of [] shows heavy damage to the Phu Tho Rail Yard. Bomb craters and twisted track make the yard unserviceable. The choke points are undamaged.

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ITEM OF INTEREST NO. 3. Hanoi/Lao Cai Rail Line

NAME: Camouflaged Siding

BE:

COORDINATES: 21 59N - 104 34E WK 568312

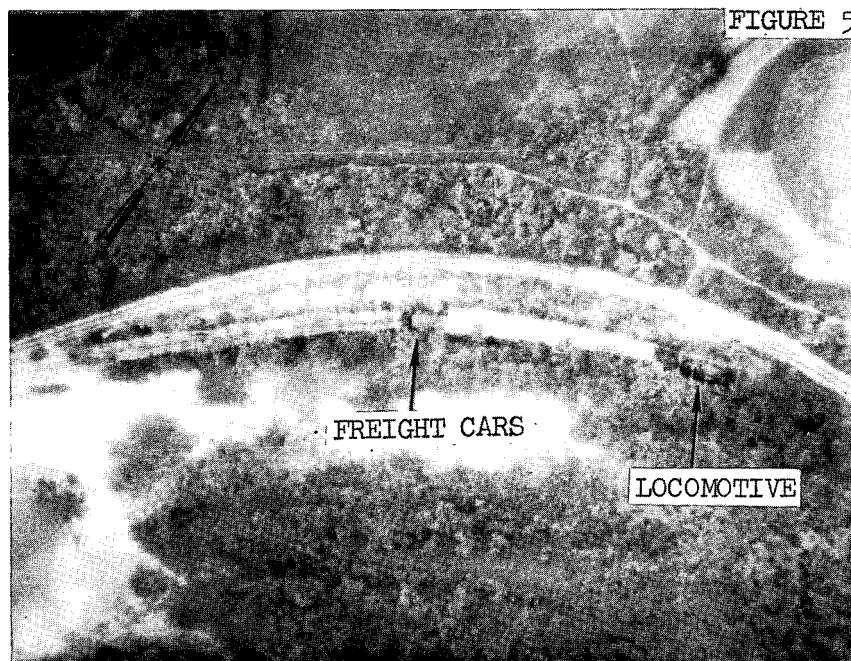
PHOTO REFERENCES:

MAP REFERENCES: AMS L509, NF 48-10

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Photography of [] reveals a train on a camouflaged siding 1.0 nm west of Trai Hut. A locomotive and three freight cars are visible.

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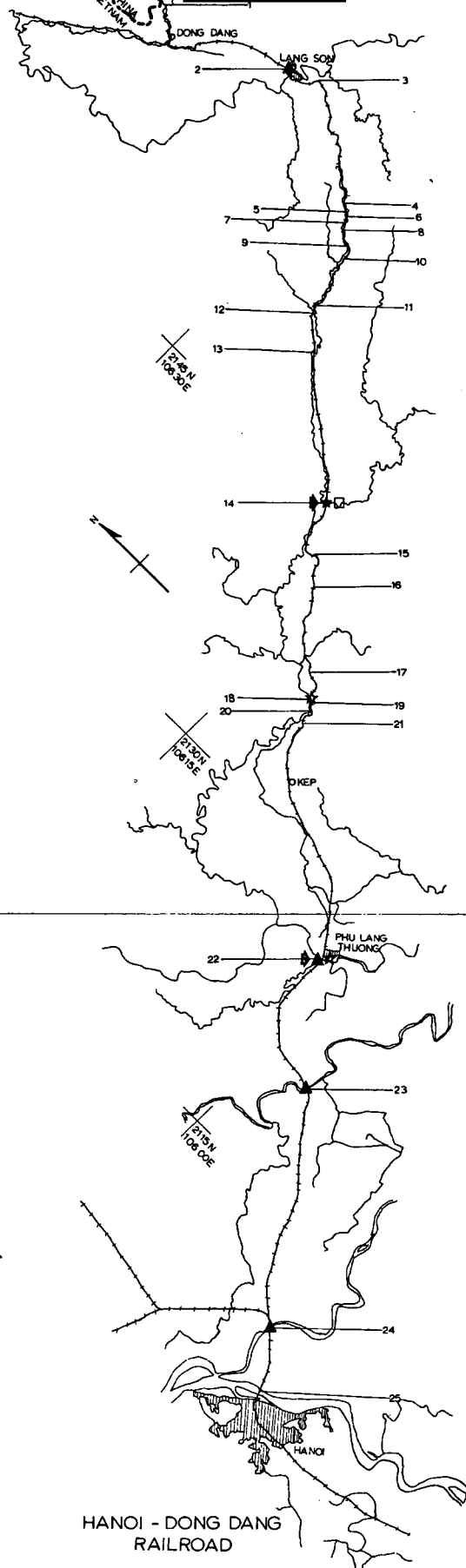
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FIGURE 6
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HANOI - DONG DANG
RAILROAD

0 5 10
STATUTE MILES

RAILROAD
STREAMS
BRIDGE NO. 100-100

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20-00N
100-10E

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ITEM OF INTEREST NO. 1. Hanoi/Dong Dang Line

NAME: Cao Nung RR Bridge

COORDINATES: 21 31N - 106 29E XJ 554845

PHOTO REFERENCES:

MAP REFERENCES: AMS L509, NF 48-12

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The Cao Nung Railroad By-pass Bridge is serviceable; the original bridge is being reconstructed (Figure 7).



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ITEM OF INTEREST NO. 2. Hanoi/Dong Dang Line

NAME: Bac Giang RR Bridge By-pass

BE:

COORDINATES: 21 16N - 106 11E XJ 232528

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PHOTO REFERENCES: [REDACTED]

MAP REFERENCES: AMS L509, NF 48-11

The Bac Giang Rail road Bridge [REDACTED] was damaged during early [REDACTED] shows that this bridge is temporarily repaired and apparently serviceable, (Figure 8). Two dropped trusses have been salvaged and are being repaired in the Bac Giang Rail Yard (Figure 9).

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A rail by-pass is under construction around the Bac Giang Bridge. Ties and meter-gauge track have been placed on a portion of the by-pass (Figure 10). The length of the ties and width of the roadbed appear capable of supporting a third standard gauge rail. This would indicate a further southward extension of the dual track previously observed at Cao Nung (21 33N - 106 29E) and near Kep (21 24N - 106 16E).



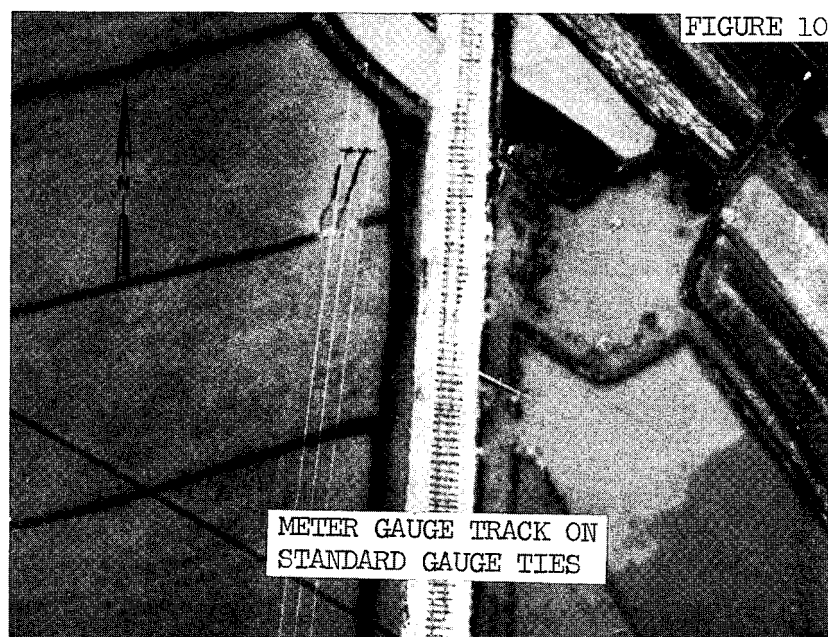
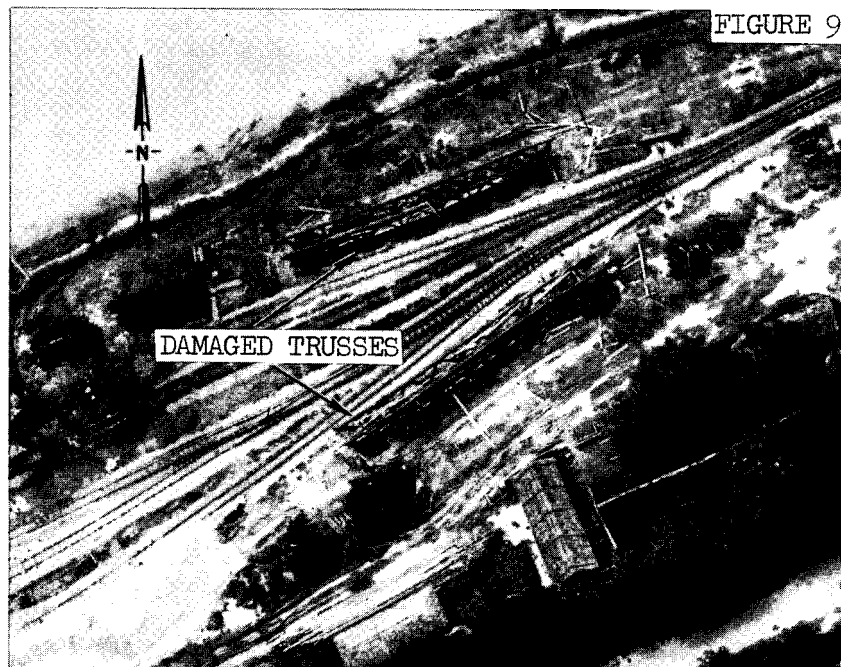
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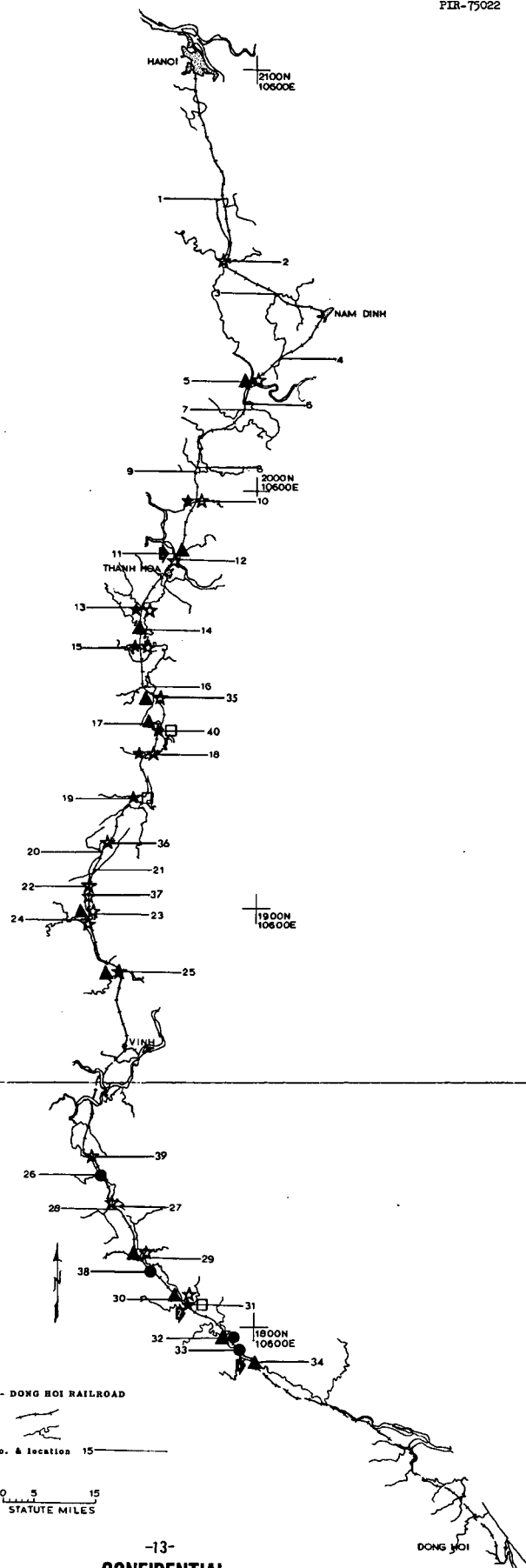
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FIGURE 11
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ITEM OF INTEREST NO. 1. Hanoi/Dong Hoi Line

NAME: Thuong Phong Trang RR Bridge

[REDACTED]

COORDINATES: 17 54N - 106 00E

PHOTO REFERENCES: [REDACTED]

MAP REFERENCES: AMS L509, NE 48-11

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The North Vietnamese are continuing to reconstruct the Vinh/Dong Hoi Line southward. The operable limit has been extended to the Rao Nay (River) at UTM 063803. A new rail bridge is under construction across the Rao Nay adjacent to the destroyed Thuong Phong Trang Railroad Bridge.



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ITEM OF INTEREST NO. 2. Hanoi/Dong Hoi Line

NAME: Camouflaged Truck

BE:

COORDINATES: 18 01N - 105 51E

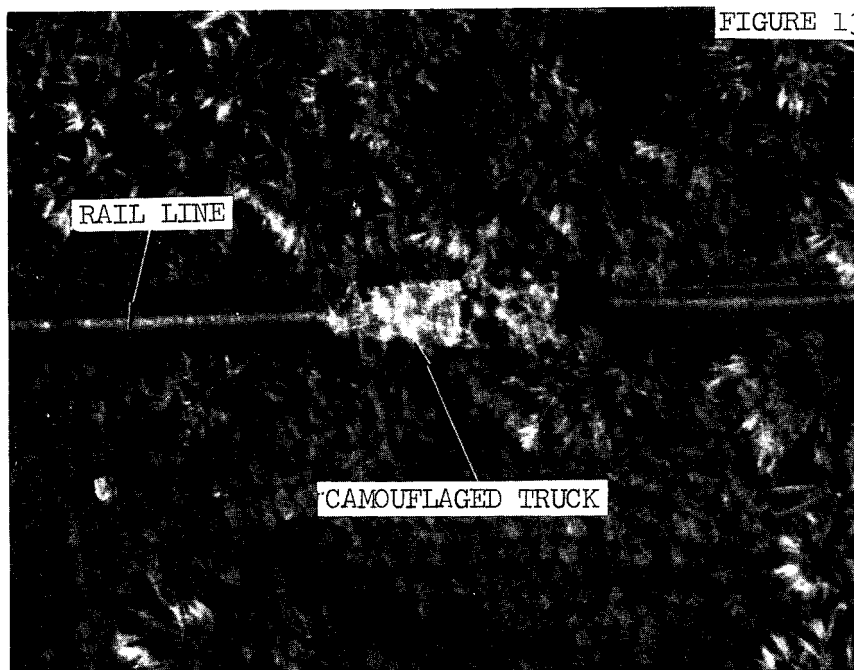
PHOTO REFERENCES:

MAP REFERENCES: AMS L509, NE 48-7

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Photography of [] revealed a camouflaged truck located 2 nm SE of Bai Duc Thon on the Vinh/Dong Hoi Rail Line. The truck has been converted for use as motive power on the southern portion of the railroad. Converted trucks, flat cars, bridge and interdiction repairs indicate continued use of this segment of the railroad.

The repair of bridges and interdicted line segments, and movement of rail equipment indicates the North Vietnamese determination to use this segment of the line even though very light equipment with small carrying capacity must be used.



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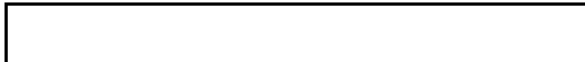
ITEM OF INTEREST NO. 3. Hanoi/Dong Hoi Rail Line

NAME: Phuong Dinh RR Bridge By-pass



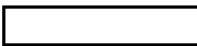
COORDINATES: 19 51N - 105 46E WG 840960

PHOTO REFERENCES:



MAP REFERENCES: AMS L509, NE 48-3

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Photography of  reveals a by-pass bridge under construction around the undamaged Phuong Dinh Railroad and Highway Bridge.

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FIGURE 14

BY-PASS BRIDGE U/C

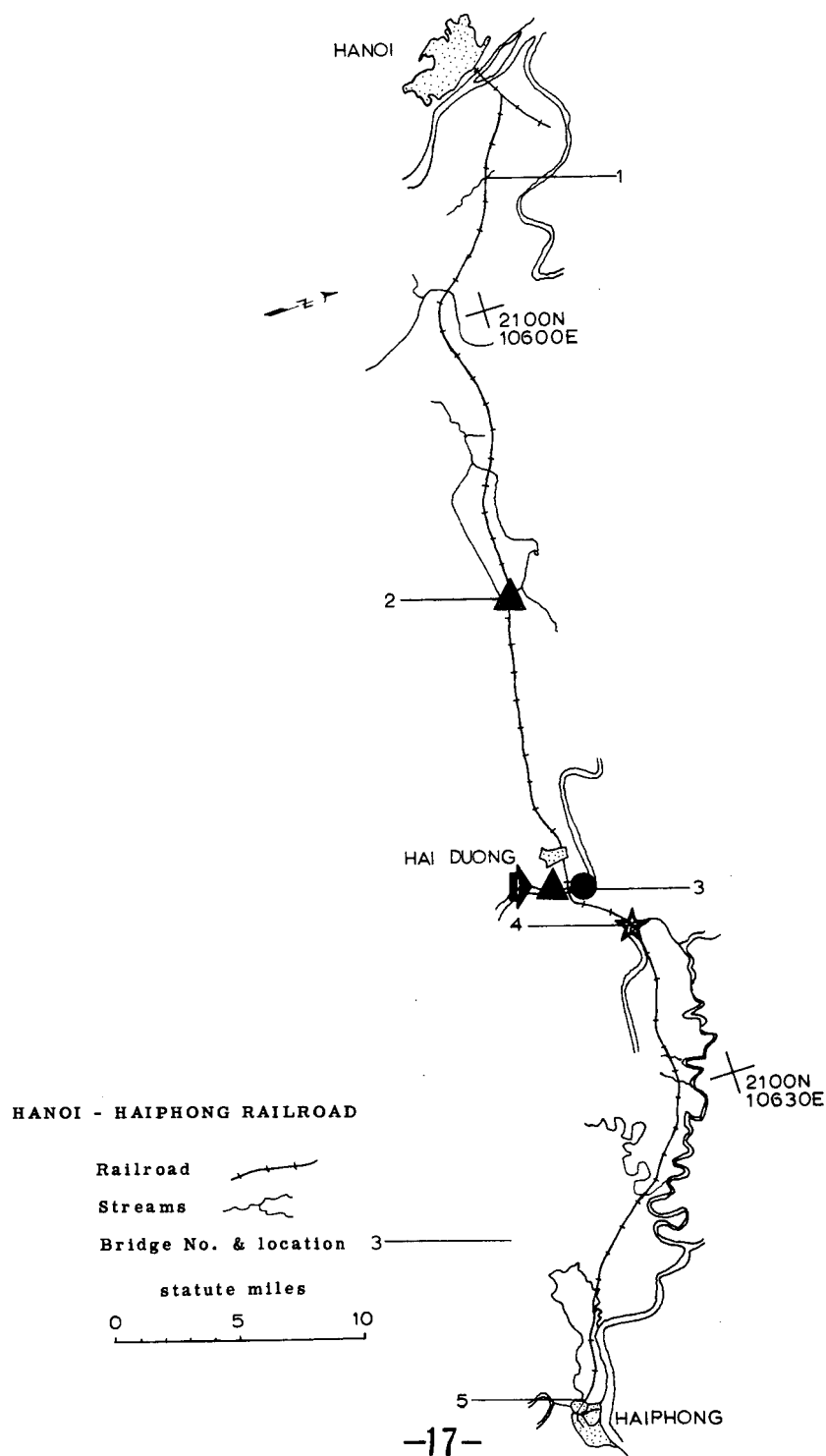
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FIGURE 15
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ITEM OF INTEREST NO. 1. Hanoi/Haiphong Rail Line

NAME: Hai Duong RR and Highway Bridge

BE:

COORDINATES: 20 56N - 106 21E XJ 415163

PHOTO REFERENCES:

MAP REFERENCES: AMS L509, NF 48-15

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The Hai Duong Railroad and Highway Bridge (Figure 16) which is still probably unserviceable is undergoing repairs. Nearby a by-pass bridge is under construction and pontoon bridge sections with railroad track were observed near this uncompleted by-pass bridge. The pontoon bridge sections are possibly being used to bridge the gap in the by-pass bridge.

A rail-to-water transshipment point (Figure 17) is located 3 nm WNW of Hai Duong at UTM XJ 342177, on the west side of the Song Thai Binh (River).

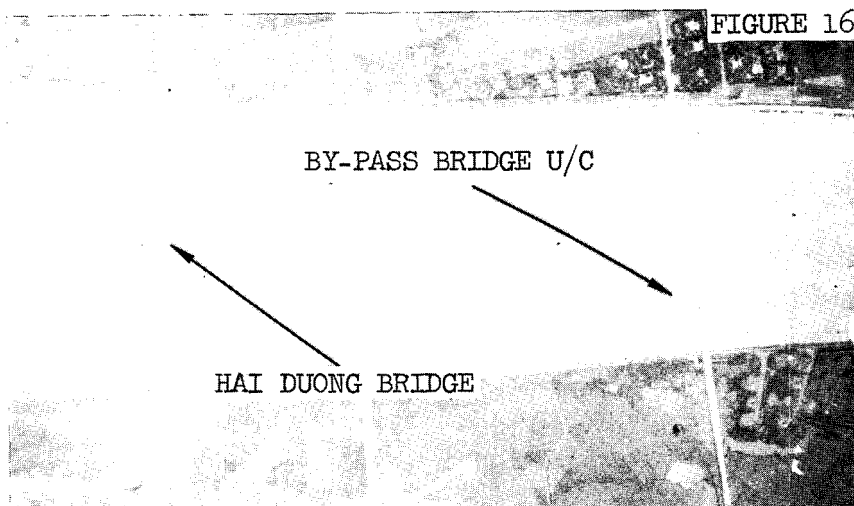


FIGURE 16

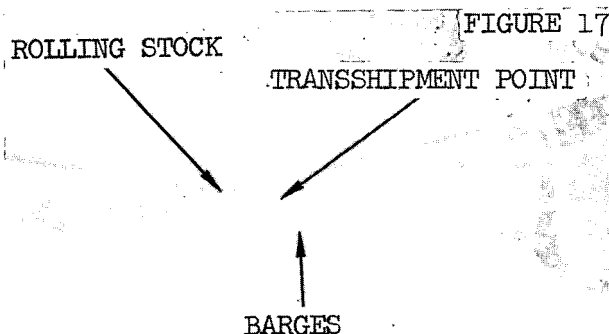


FIGURE 17

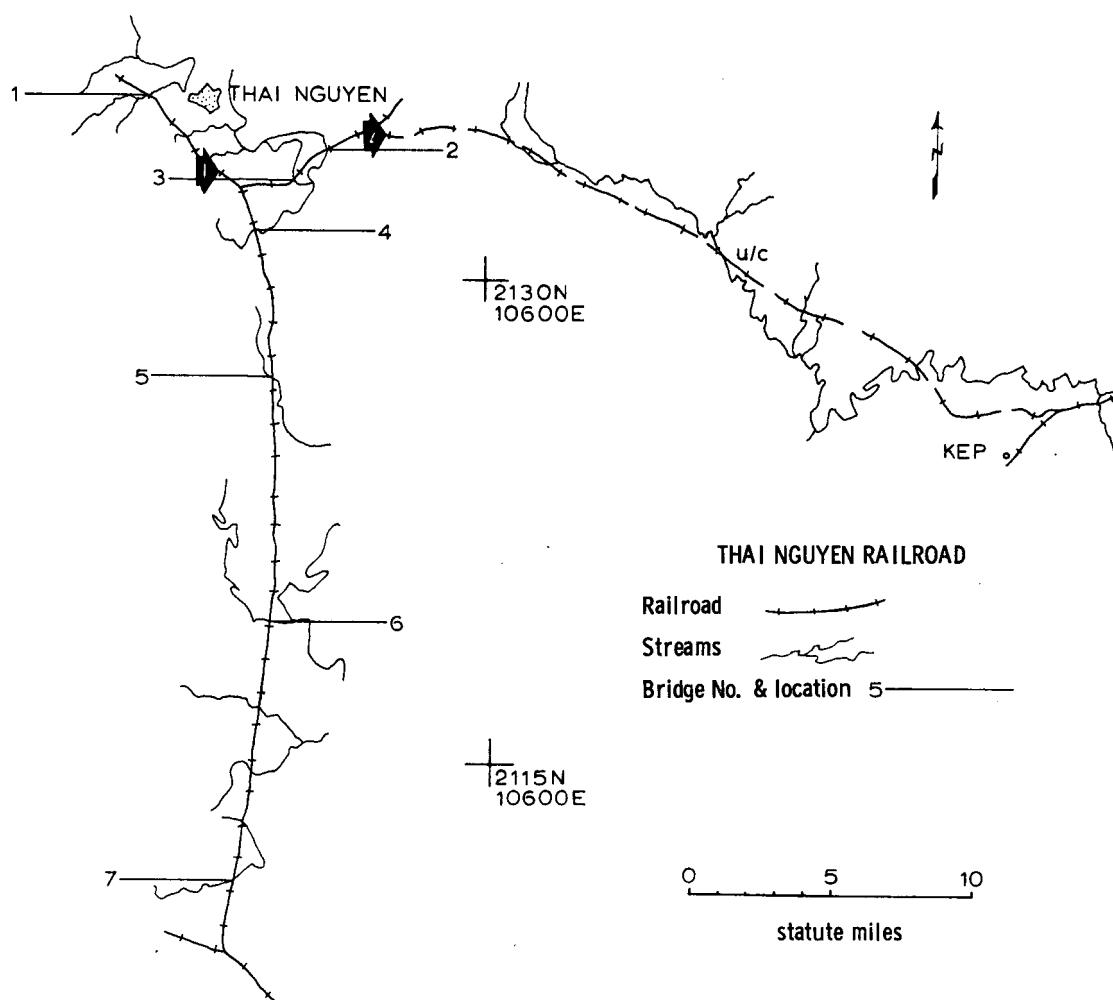
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FIGURE 18
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ITEM OF INTEREST NO. 1. Thai Nguyen Line

NAME: Thai Nguyen Rail Yard

BE:

COORDINATES: 21 33N - 105 31E WJ 892850

PHOTO REFERENCES:

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MAP REFERENCES: AMS L509, NF 48-11

The Thai Nguyen Rail Yard, damaged during early [] is still undergoing repair. Damaged rolling stock and craters are still visible in the yard. The choke points and turning wye were undamaged and the yard may be in partial use.



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ITEM OF INTEREST NO. 2. Thai Nguyen Line

NAME: Tunnel Construction

BE:

COORDINATES: 21 34N - 105 57E WJ 986864

PHOTO REFERENCES:

MAP REFERENCES: AMS L509, NF 48-11

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Construction continues on the Thai Nguyen/Kep Line at a rapid pace. Two tunnels located at WJ 986865 (Figure 20) and XJ 132810 appear to be in mid to advanced stage of construction. A tunnel/cut is under construction at UTM XJ 016865. This rail line is being constructed to standard-gauge (4'8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ") specifications as evidenced by the standard-gauge track on the roadbed at the junction with the Hanoi/Dong Dang Line.

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